AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) A slide valve for hydraulic systems, comprising:

a valve housing having a passage channel with a slide bore extending in a direction transverse to the passage channel; and

a slide having a head supported in the slide bore so as to be movable in a longitudinal direction and to be subjected to fluid pressure prevailing in the passage channel, the slide also having a blocking portion which is connected with the head and, as a result of this connection, is adjustable with the head between a blocking position and a clearing position.

14. (New) The slide valve of Claim 13, wherein the head is supported in a sealed manner in the slide bore.

15. (New) The slide valve of Claim 13, wherein the head divides the slide bore into a vented chamber.

16. (New) The slide valve of Claim 13, further including a compression spring to pre-tension the slide, the spring including a first end abutting the head and a second end abutting an abutment.

17. (New) The slide valve of Claim 16, wherein the abutment is adjustable.

18. (New) The slide valve of Claim 16, wherein the compression spring is arranged in a chamber.

19. (New) The slide valve of Claim 13, wherein the blocking portion is connected to the head by a pin portion having a diameter that is smaller than a diameter of the blocking portion.

20. (New) The slide valve of Claim 13, wherein the blocking portion is guided with little play in the slide bore.

21. (New) The slide valve of Claim 13, wherein the blocking portion divides the slide bore into a chamber, and wherein at least one channel is provided that connects the chamber with the passage channel.

22. (New) The slide valve of Claim 13, wherein the blocking portion has a diameter which is slightly smaller than a diameter of a section of the slide bore accommodating the head, such that the slide bore defines a damping gap with the blocking portion when the blocking portion is moved toward the blocking position.

23. (New) The slide valve of Claim 13, wherein the diameter of the slide bore is at least as large as the diameter of the passage channel.

24. (New) A hydraulic system including a hydraulic pump, a load, at least two branches parallel to each other, and at least one slide valve arranged in one of the branches, the slide valve comprising:

a valve housing having a passage channel with a slide bore extending in a direction transverse to the passage channel; and

a slide having a head supported in the slide bore so as to be movable in a longitudinal direction and to be subjected to fluid pressure prevailing in the passage channel, the slide also having a blocking portion which is connected with the head and, as a result of this connection, is adjustable with the head between a blocking position and a clearing position.

25. (New) A slide valve for hydraulic systems, comprising:

a valve housing having a passage channel with a slide bore extending in a direction transverse to the passage channel;

a slide having a head supported in the slide bore so as to be movable in a longitudinal direction and to be subjected to fluid pressure in the passage channel, the

slide also having a blocking portion which is connected with the head and, as a result of this connection, is adjustable with the head between a blocking position and an open position; and

a compression spring providing an adjustable spring force that urges the slide toward the open position against the fluid pressure in the passage channel, wherein the spring force is sized such that a force applied by the fluid pressure is less than the spring force at a first fluid pressure, causing the slide to remain in the open position, and is greater than the spring force at a second fluid pressure greater than the first fluid pressure, causing the slide to move toward the blocking position.

26. (New) A slide valve for hydraulic systems, comprising:

a valve housing having a passage channel with a slide bore extending in a direction transverse to the passage channel;

a slide having a head supported in the slide bore so as to be movable in a longitudinal direction and to be subjected to fluid pressure in the passage channel, the head dividing the slide bore into a first chamber, the slide also having a blocking portion which is connected with the head and, as a result of this connection, is adjustable with the head between a blocking position and a normally open position, the blocking portion dividing the slide bore into a second chamber that is provided in communication with the passage channel by at least one channel such that the pressure in the second chamber decreases as a fluid flow rate through the passage channel increases; and

a compression spring received in the first chamber and providing an adjustable spring force that urges the slide toward the open position against the fluid pressure in the passage channel, wherein the spring force is sized such that a force applied by the fluid pressure is less than the spring force at a first fluid pressure, causing the slide to remain in the open position, and is greater than the spring force at a second fluid pressure greater than the first fluid pressure, causing the slide to move toward the blocking position.